

THE CHURCHES AND TO-DAY'S SERVICES

Paul at Thessalonica

Sermon by
REV. FLOYD W. THOMAS.

Text: Acts xvii. 1-15.

St. Paul's many visits to the towns of Asia afford a most interesting study, both of the character of the inhabitants of the land and also of the methods used by the apostle to preach the Gospel to the heathen. As the present terrible war seems to be approaching Asia, and as has been declared by some, is to find its center in Mesopotamia, it makes the study of this country, and particularly the early Christian life of it, most interesting. Dr. Francis E. Clark has written a most interesting book upon the Holy Land of Asia Minor, containing particularly of the seven churches spoken of in the Book of Revelation. I commend the book to all Bible students and Sunday school teachers because it shows us something of the modern cities, and also throws light upon the words which were spoken to the churches through St. John. Thessalonica was not one of these cities, but a general knowledge of the city gathered from the history of the other cities.

Thessalonica is now known as Saloniki, the capital of Macedonia. We read about it in the papers in connection with the great war. At the time the apostle went there, and when St. Paul wrote his Epistles to the Thessalonians it was a prosperous city and had much of culture for that day. In connection with St. Paul's visit to this city it is well to read his two letters to the Christians there.

RECOGNIZED RELIGIOUS LIFE OF PEOPLE

Let us note how at once St. Paul entered into the synagogue, which was the religious life of the people and began with the Jews in order that through them he might reach the Gentiles. Some critics might think that he was unwise in doing this, inasmuch as the Jews at that time were persecuting him, and were leaders in his persecution; but the principle is so clear that we ought to recognize it in our modern methods of work. St. Paul knew the recognition which God had given the Jews, which was not to be destroyed but was to be fulfilled, and therefore he was ready to give an opportunity to those who did not believe in Jesus Christ, and yet believed in the prophetic service of Him, to understand the Gospel and to receive its splendid message. Whenever we are going to help people, or try to help them, we must recognize the good in them, and then show them how that good may become the great power of their lives. It is a poor plan to begin any work by tearing down. Christianity is always constructive, and as love grows, the evil gradually is overcome.

It may have been a painful thing to Paul that his host, Jason, suffered because of his readiness to receive the apostle. Yet there must always be suffering on the part of those who espouse a great cause. Nothing can be accomplished without self-denial. Those who began the temperance work were persecuted severely. Those who fought against impurity were treated with contempt and hatred. Men who have tried to be reformers have always been treated either with ridicule or with bitter persecution.

WAS WILLING TO RECEIVE MESSENGER OF GOD

Jason deserved great credit in that he was willing to receive Paul, even though he must have known it was likely to bring down upon him the wrath of ungodly people. As we are ready to receive the messengers of God and to help them in their work, no matter how bitter the hostility against them? Are we ready to stand up for God's messengers, even though the popular feeling is against them? These are the questions which we must ask ourselves and ask whether we are suffering anything because of the high ideals of our lives or because of the strength of our religion.

Some people wonder why it was that Paul and Silas went away by night, as it were secretly. Does it not seem a little cowardly for them to have left Jason to his trouble and run away to friendly people? We cannot judge, but I think we know that God never asks us to suffer needlessly if we have important work to do for Him. Cowardice is never justifiable, but neither is there any bravery in courting danger. We may be bold in doing a great work, but if we have a mission from God to do yet greater work then we are justified in passing from a dangerous and unpromising situation to one which is better.

Paul was too brave a man to run away from any trouble, but he was also too big a man to think that by seeking trouble he would be serving God.

SOME ALWAYS SUSPICIOUS AND READY TO ATTACK

When the apostles came to Berea they had a better opportunity, for they met noble and wise people who were willing to listen and to learn. What a difference there is now, as there was then, between people! Some are always suspicious and ready to attack. Others are willing to listen and to learn, having open minds and a warm heart. Berea was a comparatively unimportant town when compared with Thessalonica and Athens, but it showed character in that it received the truth and practiced it. We do not know whether the Berean Church ever amounted to very much, but we do know that there were better Christians there who will shine in the firmament of God. It is not the important position that we hold amongst men, nor the influence which we may seem to have, that counts with God. It is the earnest willingness to obey Him and the listening to His word that must prove our loyalty and bring the blessing of God.

Our lesson to-day is interesting because it brings us to St. Paul's entrance into Athens, which was then the great intellectual and social center, if not of the world at least of this section of the world. Gradually Paul was working out a better way to reach Athens, but he took Thessalonica and Berea on the way, and found at both places those who became devoted followers of the Master and leaders in the church. I have sometimes thought that it is the little side efforts that we make, as we press on toward great

ALL LIFE IS ONLY PREPARATION

It is not that other things are unimportant or that we can slight them, but it is that they lead us up gradually so that we can better do our work when its chief center is reached. All life is preparation, but various stages of life prepare us for responsibilities which soon or late will face us. Hence the importance of never slighting anything which comes in our way. St. Paul undoubtedly wished to reach Athens, but he took Thessalonica and Berea on the way, and found at both places those who became devoted followers of the Master and leaders in the church. I have sometimes thought that it is the little side efforts that we make, as we press on toward great

EDDY MEMORIAL COMPLETE

Handsome Monument in White Granite Looks Across Piled Waters of New England Lake.

The memorial to Mary Baker Eddy, the discoverer and founder of Christian Science, erected in Mt. Auburn Cemetery at Cambridge, Mass., was turned over on Saturday to the Christian Science Board of Directors by E. B. S. Barlow, of New York, who had charge of its construction. Over a year and a half has been required to complete it. Christian Scientists throughout the world have contributed, as expressions of sentiment, the entire cost of over \$150,000.

Interviewed regarding the memorial, the architect, Egerton Swartwout, of New York, said: "The site is singularly pleasing; in fact, I question whether a finer site could anywhere be found. It can be seen from all sides equally well, close at hand from the cemetery road, and from a quarter of a mile away across the lake. Indeed, it is this body of water which forms the chief beauty of the site. There is a drop of approximately ten feet from the level of the road to the level of the lake, there being a natural terrace on the axis of the plot which lends itself admirably to the architectural development of the memorial. The lake is unusually still, and has a mirror-like quality which reflects admirably the white granite of which the memorial is made."

"As to the memorial, I think it can be said without contradiction that, leaving aside entirely any artistic excellence, such perfection and delicacy have never been attained before in this unyielding and enduring material. There is nothing in modern architecture that can approach it, nor, as far as I know, in any of the monuments of antiquity."

Mr. Swartwout designed the new Missouri State Capitol and the new Federal Building in Denver, and recently won the competition for the new George Washington Memorial. All that now remains to be done to complete the memorial to Mrs. Eddy is the planting for the landscape, which is to consist chiefly of evergreen plants that will preserve their

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ, Scientist—The regular service will be held at 11 o'clock this morning on "The Drawing of the Veil." The subject will be "The Doctrine of Atonement."

ADVENTIST

Life and Advent—Elder James Howie will preach at 11 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this evening. The subject of the evening sermon will be "Our Varied Experiences."

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Steele Hall—The regular services will be held at 10:30 o'clock this morning and at 8 o'clock this afternoon. Mr. L. Staples will speak at the afternoon service on "The Narrow Way, the Broad Way, the Highway."

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Central Building—W. B. Stuart, of the Postal Telegraph Company, Charlotte, N. C., will speak on "The Greatest Invisible Forces" at the men's meeting at 8 o'clock this afternoon. The address will be illustrated with electrical apparatus. C. A. Brooks, of Charlotte, and Miss Marjorie Harcum will sing. There will be an illustrated talk for boys on the subject, "Shining Jim," at 2:30 o'clock this evening.

MISS SHERRID WINS PRIZE

Miss Susie Sherrid has been presented with a Bible as a prize for passing with great credit the examination in the teachers' training class at Park Place Methodist Church, taught by Mrs. C. M. Eddington.

Organize Home Department Workers

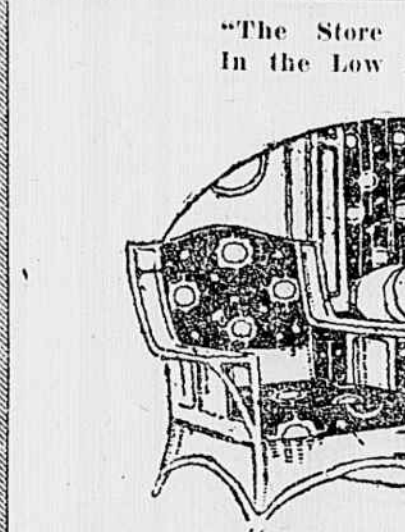
To organize an association of interested denominational home department workers of Richmond, a conference will be held at noon next Friday at the Second Baptist Church.

WALTER R. BENJAMIN, 55 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, OFFERS ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPH LETTERS OF ALL CELEBRITIES. IF YOU HAVE ANY OLD ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPH LETTERS, OR OTHERS OF INTEREST, WRITE TO HIM, HE WILL BUY THEM. PUBLISHER OF THE COLLECTOR'S GUIDE TO THE AUTOGRAPH COLLECTOR. PRICE, ONE DOLLAR A YEAR. SAMPLE FREE.

AUTOGRAPH LETTERS OF FAMOUS PEOPLE BOUGHT FOR CASH

LETTERS OF CELEBRATED POETS, STATESMEN, GENERALS, AND D.D.'S. WANTED. A. L. HADGIAN, 551 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK CITY.

"The Store That Pleases, In the Low Rent District."



New Porch and Lawn Furniture

You should not buy Porch or Lawn Furniture until you inspect the showing we have ready. It features almost unlimited assortments and values that are better than you will get in the average store, because we bought very early and in quantities large enough to secure price concessions unusual. For your own best interests you must come here first.

Extra Special—Porch Rockers, 98c up

\$37.50 AXMINSTER RUGS

We were very fortunate to secure a limited quantity of Axminster rugs in extra high grade quality to sell at a big bargain price. They come in four beautiful patterns and are 9x12 feet in size. On sale as long as they last. \$25

Buy a Leonard Refrigerator

They have hard, smooth porcelain linings, all in ONE PIECE, with rounded corners and no joints, cracks or crevices of any kind, and is therefore germ and sickness proof. It is also so easy to clean that a damp cloth is sufficient to keep the provision chamber in a perfectly clean and sanitary condition.

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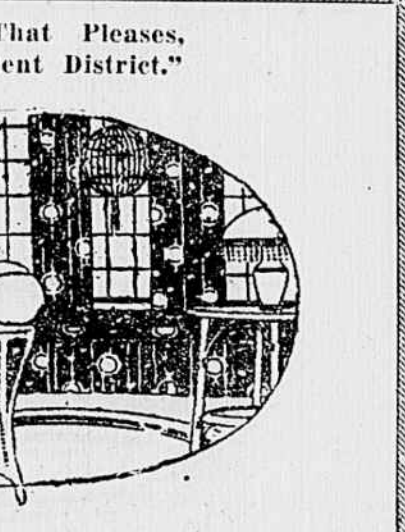
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Baptist Women to Meet

The annual meeting of the Baptist Women's Missionary Circle will be held Tuesday evening from 7 until 9 o'clock in Grace Street Baptist Church. Super will be served at 6 o'clock. Reports will be made by the officers, committees and various churches, and officers will be elected. The program includes music and several addresses.

Reception to New Members

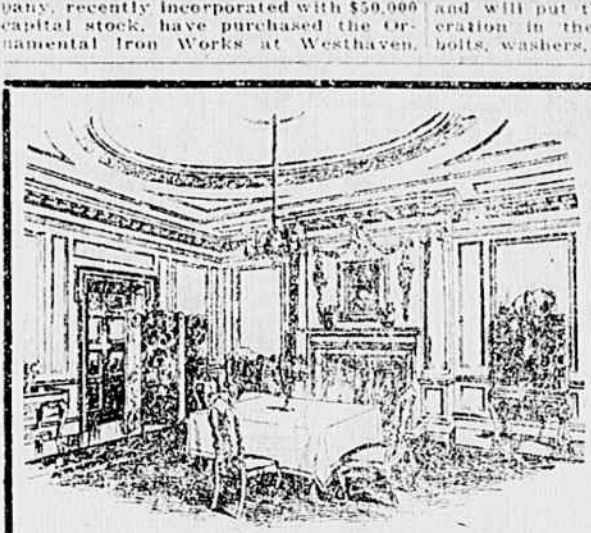
In honor of the twenty new members added to Fulton Presbyterian Church during the recent evangelistic campaign, the ladies' auxiliary and Christian Endeavor Societies held a reception at the church last week. After the short program, refreshments were served.

Finding the Way Back Home

S. L. Thomas, general secretary of the Railroad Young Men's Christian Association, will speak at 3:30 o'clock this afternoon at the Central Methodist Church on "Finding the Way Back Home." The service will be for men only.

Portsmouth Metal Workers

PORTSMOUTH, VA., April 21.—The Portsmouth Metal and Foundry Com-



A "Georgian" dining room, simply furnished, but with a wealth of architectural decoration that makes it exceedingly interesting.

R. L. Peters

Interior Decorator and Furnisher Fine Fabrics FOR Walls, Hangings and Furniture. Modern and Period Style Decorations. Exterior and Interior Painting and Finishing. 109 N. Eighth St.

Lemons Whiten the Skin Beautifully! Make Cheap Lotion



The juice of two fresh lemons strained into a bottle containing three ounces of orchard white makes a whole quart of the most remarkable lemon skin beautifier at about the cost one must pay for a small jar of the ordinary cold creams. Care should be taken to strain the lemon juice through a fine cloth so no lemon pulp gets in, then this lotion will keep fresh for months. Every woman knows that lemon juice is used to bleach and remove such blemishes as freckles, sallowness and tan, and is the ideal skin softener, smoothen and beautifier. Just try it: Make up a quart of this sweetly fragrant lemon lotion and massage it daily into the face, neck, arms and hands. It should naturally help to whiten, soften, freshen and bring out the hidden roses and beauty of any skin. It is wonderful for rough, red hands. Your grocer will sell three ounces of orchard white at little cost, and any grocer will supply the lemons.

\$200 for a Summer Trip

To Whom It May Interest:

June 1, 1917, we will give our certified check, \$200, for the best written description of our plant and its facilities. Must not contain over 500 words. Must be in office May 15, 1917. Contestants must be over 17 years of age. In no way connected with our business. Visitors will be shown through the plant during business hours by presenting card with name and address, stating where ad was seen.

W. FRED RICHARDSON, INC.

W. FRED RICHARDSON, President.

W. Fred Richardson, Inc.

Moving—Packing—Shipping Fireproof Storage for Household Goods. Main and Belvidere Streets. Randolph 843.

Do Not Forget That We Clean Your Carpets and Store Them Under a Guarantee Against Moths.

A Message to Music Lovers

We are overcrowded. We must have room to turn about in. Never have our stocks been more complete. Never such an assortment of beautiful high-grade pianos from which to choose. Never were prices lower. Never were the terms more attractive for those who do not wish to take advantage of a liberal cash discount. Never did music take a more prominent part in the home than now. Under the CRAFTS plan of merchandising, it is so easy to become the owner of a piano or player-piano which will give you permanent pleasurable service. Under the CRAFTS plan of merchandising, your investment is secure, because of our willingness to refund your money promptly if you find the piano other than represented.

It is perfectly safe and economical to deal at CRAFTS FACTORY WAREHOUSES because of our unique position. We are out of the high rent district. We employ no salesmen or agents, and offer you high-grade, dependable pianos direct at rock bottom prices. When dealing here, you do not only save the agents' commission, the salesmen's salary and traveling expense, but you save in the price because of our low cost of selling. It is quite safe to state that it is an absolute fact that our rent is something like 75% below Broad Street rents. This one item alone means a tremendous saving to the customer and ourselves. It is a saving of thousands of dollars annually.

Because of our liberal treatment and fair dealing, we enjoy liberal patronage. The only agents we have are our customers, and they are only too glad to speak a good word in our behalf. When you become a CRAFTS customer, you will become a CRAFTS friend, you will become a CRAFTS booster, because you will appreciate to a greater degree why "IT'S BETTER TO DEAL WITH CRAFTS THAN TO WISH YOU HAD."

If you are not now ready to buy a new CRAFTS, perhaps you can find just the piano you wish in our bargain basement, where are offered slightly used and second-hand pianos at prices which make it a duty for every economical musician to deal direct with these FACTORY WAREHOUSES. Notable among the offerings is a \$250 CRAFTS in an oak case. There is a \$500 HARDMAN at \$180; it is in good condition. There is a \$100 STANDARD, which looks like new, now going at \$190. There is a \$250 WELLINGTON going at \$167. There is a \$650 PLAYER going at \$298, and a \$1,000 PLAYER going at \$467.

These are but a few of the many excellent bargains which may be had by acting promptly, and you can buy any second-hand piano from 75c to \$1.50 weekly; players may be bought from \$150 to \$200 weekly—in other words, any terms that you may name in reason will be satisfactory and accepted. Write for our complete bargain bulletin, if you cannot call in person. Full details will be sent you by return mail. We send pianos on thirty days' free trial, and if found other than satisfactory we pay the freight both ways. You can do no better than to address your letter of inquiry right now to A. J. CRAFTS, RICHMOND, VA., or you can write me personally.

A. J. Crafts